

We claim:

1. An iliac crest belt assembly adapted for interlocking attachment to a body brace having a back element shaped to fit about a person's lower back region, the iliac crest belt assembly comprising:

5 (A) an elongated strip (1) formed from a substantially rigid material, (2) having a center portion and first and second ends and (3) comprising an inner layer of relatively compressible material attached to the substantially rigid material,

(B) adjustment and locking elements for adjusting the fit of and locking the
10 belt assembly about the waist of the person, the adjustment and locking elements being disposed in substantially corresponding locations on the first and second ends, respectively, of the elongated strip, and

(C) fastening means, attached to the center portion of the elongated strip, for removably fastening the belt assembly to the first back element such that
15 when locked about the waist of the person and fastened to the back element of the body brace, the belt assembly interlocks with the back element so as to impart stabilizing force from the elongated strip through the fastening means to the back element, wherein:

(D) the elongated strip is configured to, when the belt assembly is locked
20 about the waist of the person: (1) engage the iliac crests of the person with adjustable tension and (2) encircle the waist of the person with an adjustable circumference and tension, with the center portion positioned substantially against the lumbar spinal region of the person and the first and second ends

positioned against the front of the person, so that stabilizing force is imparted from the elongated strip through the fastening means to the back element.